JAMES McDANIEL—HEIRS OF.

May 18, 1860.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. REAGAN, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, made the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the letter of George W. Parks and the papers accompanying it, in relation to a reserve of 640 acres of land, taken by James McDaniel, under the treaties of 1817 and 1819 between the United States and the Cherokee nation, and afterwards sold by him to James Wiley, beg leave to report:

That they have examined said papers, and find that on the 10th of July, 1817, James McDaniel took a reserve of 640 acres of land, as the head of a Cherokee family, under the provisions of the 8th article

of the treaty of the 8th of July, 1817, which is as follows:

It also appears from the proof submitted by the claimant that McDaniel removed from said reserve in 1822 or 1823; and one of the witnesses, whose affidavit he presents, says that he understood McDaniel sold the reserve before his removal from it. And there is a copy of a deed from McDaniel to Wiley for this land, dated December 27, 1822. McDaniel soon afterwards removed to the Cherokee nation, west of the Mississippi river.

It will be seen that upon his removal from this reserve the land reverted to the United States, and the fee simple title to the heirs and the widow's right of dower reverted with the life estate, under the proviso to the 8th article of the treaty above quoted, so that whether Wiley took any title or not, the heirs, whose right is now attempted to be set up, reverted with the life estate, and we are of opinion that neither they nor their assignees have any right to this land or to compensation for it. We therefore report against the claim, and for a more elaborate statement of the reasons on which we have come to this conclusion we refer to the report submitted by us this day, against the passage of a bill referred to us, entitled "A bill to execute the treaties of 1817 and 1819 with the Cherokees, by making provisions for the reservations under the same."